

Community Information Bulletin:

Identity Theft

Prepared By: The Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff Criminal Investigations Division

To reduce your chances of becoming a victim of identity theft, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office suggests citizens adhere to the following:

- Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal or financial information.
- Bring your mail in daily - don't leave mail in your mailbox.
- Immediately report lost or stolen credit cards to the card issuer.
- Do not carry your social security card or your birth certificate. Keep them in a safe place.
- Be aware and note when your monthly financial statements arrive in the mail. Notify your financial institutions when they don't arrive when expected.
- Watch your financial statements and ensure all charges made are yours.
- Never reveal your bank account, credit card, mother's maiden name or social security number over the phone. Ask the caller to send information by mail.
- Keep a list of all your financial accounts such as account numbers, expiration dates, and customer help telephone numbers. Ensure this list is kept in a safe place & use to contact in case of lost or stolen cards.
- When creating passwords or PINs, do not use digits of your social security number, mother's maiden name, your birthdate, any part of your name (first, middle, last).
- Watch your credit card expiry dates, if you don't receive a replacement card prior to the date - contact the issuer.
- Consider making your telephone number unlisted or listed without your address.
- Sign all new credit cards immediately to prevent someone else from doing so.
- Beware of e-mails asking for you to verify account information or personal information. Call the institution requesting this information directly to verify the legitimacy of the e-mail.
- Request a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus once a year: Equifax: 800-525-6285; Experian: 888-397-3742; TransUnion: 800-680-7289

The information provided on this form is true, complete and correct to the best of the MCSO's knowledge, and made in good faith. Send comments regarding this form, or the content contained therein, to MCSO Deputy Inspector Edward Bailey, care of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, 821 W. State Street, Room 107, Milwaukee, WI 53233 (or via the web at ebailey@milwcnty.com). The information contained in this material is intended solely for the use of the community, and relies on un-classified information maintained by Milwaukee County, by the MCSO, and publicly available via the World Wide Web.